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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Former Harrison School Demolition in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Peoria, located at 2815 West Krause Avenue, Peoria, IL 61605 (school location) and 419 Fulton St, Peoria, IL 61602 (City Hall).

Demolishing the former Harrison School building will serve the health and safety of residents in one of Peoria's oldest neighborhoods. The property has sat vacant and abandoned for multiple years and falls on the responsibility of the City to maintain, secure and demolish. The building is a major blighting influence on the neighborhood and attracts crime and creates other health hazards. The structure has dilapidated to the point that it is a large source of blight in the neighborhood, attracting crime and posing a threat to residents who may venture inside.

Demolishing the former Harrison School is a priority because of its massive footprint in the neighborhood where it once served as a guiding influence for neighborhood children and an employer of residents. It is now a hazardous eyesore representing a block to new development and reinvestment in the neighborhood. For over a decade, the property has changed hands between different private property owners who were unable to afford making the necessary investments to improve the property. This project would have an incredible positive impact on the residents of 61605, one of the most distressed communities in the nation.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Respectfully,

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
April 30, 2021